

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND DON KNABE**

**JUNE 16, 2009**

One in nine children in America are uninsured. One in eight children (1.27 million children) in California are uninsured. In 2007, at least 329,000 uninsured children ages 0 – 18 were residing in Los Angeles County.

Children are particularly vulnerable in this time of budget constraint and economic crisis.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Authorize the Chair of the Board to execute the attached resolution which urges Congress and the Obama Administration to work to include low-income children and pregnant women in its historic efforts to achieve universal health coverage this year.
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation and any key Congressional Committee Members.

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MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

County of Los Angeles

**CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, one in nine children in America are uninsured. One in eight children (1.27 million children) in California are uninsured. In 2007, at least 329,000 uninsured children ages 0 – 18 were residing in Los Angeles County.

**WHEREAS**, children are particularly vulnerable in this time of economic crisis and federal and state budget curtailments. For example, roughly 240,000 Los Angeles County children would lose comprehensive health coverage if Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed elimination of the Healthy Families program is implemented.

**WHEREAS**, the Children's Defense Fund and other national and state children's organizations have urged Congress to guarantee every child and pregnant woman comprehensive health and mental health coverage.

**WHEREAS** the health coverage for all children should provide:

- A national eligibility level to cover all children and ensures coverage is affordable;
- A national benefit package that covers medically necessary health, mental health and dental services;
- Streamlined mechanisms to ensure children get and stay covered; and
- Adequate provider reimbursement rates to ensure children actually receive needed services;

**WHEREAS** uninsured children are less likely to get needed medical care.

**WHEREAS** extending coverage to children is cost effective because children with coverage are more likely to receive immunizations and receive services at the primary care level, avoiding costly and unnecessary emergency room care.

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors met with Congressional leaders and the Obama Administration in Washington D.C. in May of 2009 to express strong support for universal health reform that would cover medically necessary comprehensive services (including prescription drugs, primary and preventive care, mental health and substance abuse, vision and dental benefits) without regard to prior medical condition. Urging affordable and comprehensive coverage for children would be consistent with the County's call for universal health coverage.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles urge Congress and the Obama Administration to work to include children and pregnant women in its historic efforts to achieve universal health coverage this year.